

APPENDIX A: ISSUES, QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS FROM PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

On January 12, 2015 approximately 8,077 postcard notifications were sent to residents in the proposed treatment sites, and between January 12 and January 14, 2015 approximately 101 letter notifications were sent to public officials informing them of the public meetings. Legal notices were published in local newspapers informing the public about the upcoming meetings on the proposed treatment sites. An Indiana Department of Natural Resources New Release was sent out on January 23, 2015 with information on the scheduled public meetings. Information on the public meetings, proposed treatments and comment period was also posted on the Division website at gypsymoth.IN.gov

Five public meetings were held for citizens, public officials and interested individuals to attend (Table 1). There was a total attendance of 34 citizens at the meetings (Table 1). At each of the public meetings (Table 1), representatives from the Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology presented the proposed gypsy moth project and answered and received questions and comments. The presentation explained:

- the life cycle, feeding habits and hosts of gypsy moth;
- the identification of gypsy moth;
- survey methods;
- gypsy moth impacts and damage to the trees and forest;
- selection of proposed sites;
- selection of the treatment options;
- the timing and application of treatments;
- boundaries of the treatment sites with maps;
- the public comment period and decision process.

Both during and following the presentation, questions and comments were taken, answered and discussed with the people attending the meetings.

All public comments received by the public comment deadline of March 12, 2015 were considered in the final decision for the proposed treatments (Table 1).

Information gathered from the public and from resource professionals was used to develop issues and concerns related to the project. They are grouped into two categories; 1) issues used to formulate the alternatives, and 2) other issues and concerns.

The questions and comments received during and after the public meetings were categorized into four main issues:

- Human health and safety;
- Nontarget effects and environmental effects;
- Economic and political impacts;
- Likelihood of success of the proposed project, and the treatment options proposed.

These 4 issues were used to analyze each of the Alternatives in the Environmental Consequences (Chapter 4.0) in the Environmental Assessment. A detailed list of comments and questions from the public meetings is in the Administrative File.

After the decision on the proposed treatments is made and if treatments are conducted, residents will be mailed a notification approximately two weeks prior to treatment. DNR News Releases will be sent out to local media and asked to communicate the information to the general public. Phone calls will be made to public officials and other interested individuals. Updates regarding the scheduled day of treatment will continue prior to and through treatments via local media, phone calls, emails and Twitter.

Table 1. Date, time, and attendance of the public meetings for the proposed treatment sites by county. All meeting times are local times.

COUNTY	SITE	DATE	TIME	# Attending
Lake	Gary 1 Gary 2 Portage 1	January 27, 2015	6:00 pm CST	2
St. Joseph	Potato Creek 1 Potato Creek 2	January 29, 2015	3:00 pm EST	11
St. Joseph	Potato Creek 1 Potato Creek 2	January 29, 2015	6:00 pm EST	11
Porter	Palmer 1 Palmer 2 Portage 1 Valparaiso 12 Chesteron 1	February 4, 2015	6:00 pm CST	3
Porter	Palmer 1 Palmer 2 Portage 1 Valparaiso 12 Chesteron 1	February 10, 2015	6:00 pm CST	7
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